

Hi my name is Iris Cruz and I'm here to share my personal testimony about Supportive Housing and asking you to please support S.B. No. 405.

I became homeless six years ago. I was in an abusive relationship and I tried to commit suicide and I relapsed on drugs after being clean for ten years. I was homeless for three years it was one of the most difficult times of my life. I used to live on the streets for a year and a half because I thought that by going to the shelter I would be around drug addicts and criminals. After living on the streets for a year and a half I ran into an old friend that told me about a safe shelter in Hartford, CT. After living in the shelter for seven months I heard about a program called the Genesis center in Manchester, CT. I became apart of the Genesis family and a year later I applied to the pilots program. I was granted housing through the pilot program and I've been living in my own warm, safe apartment.

I no longer use any drugs and I've been clean for three years. I can honestly say that since I now have my own place my life has meaning. I now have a close relationship with my children and grand children and am now engaged to my wonderful fiancé who has taught me the meaning of life and to live and spread my wings.

I can honestly say that this may have not happened if it wasn't for
Pilots a supportive housing program. Thank you for your time and please
support S.B. No. 405.

